

# GAME FACE

INDIANS

REBOOK MAGAZINE

**Albert  
Hits  
the Big  
5-0!**

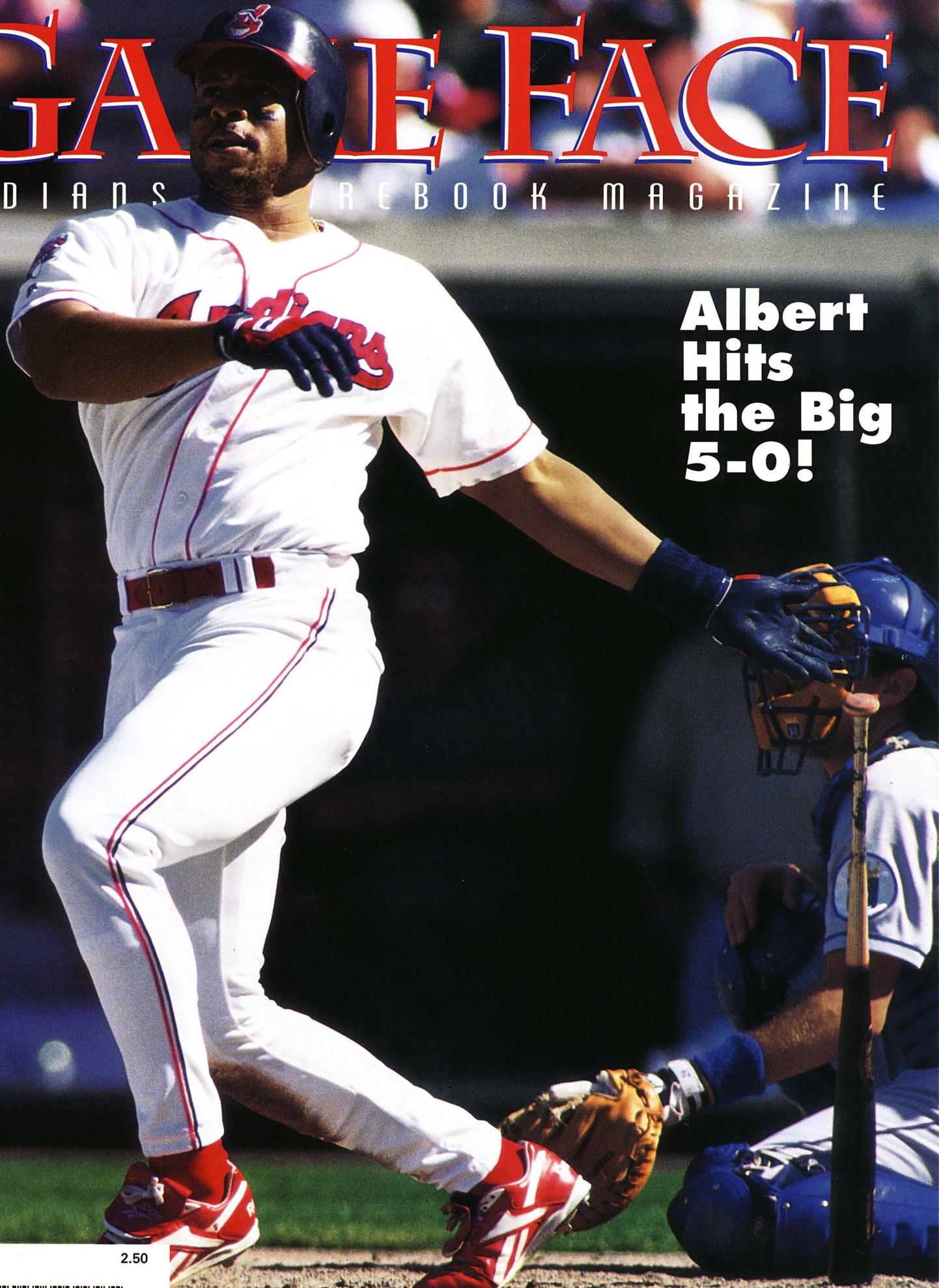


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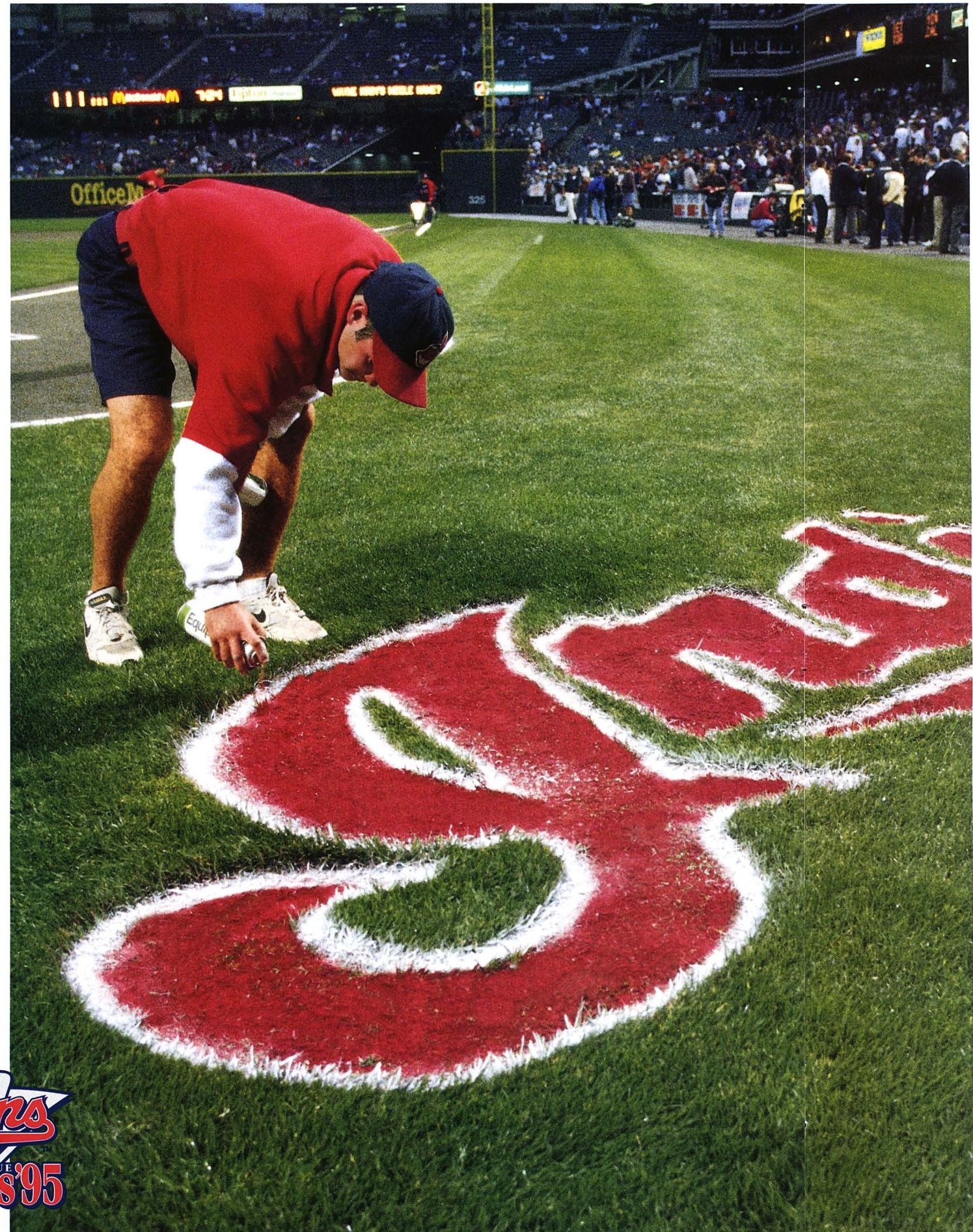


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Indians All-Star Albert Belle gives his opinions on a wide variety of topics.

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by Russ Schneider Indians free agent acquisition Jack McDowell talks with writer Russ Schneider about the game, where he's been, and how he feels about where he's going...

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Julio Franco is back with the Indians, but many things have changed since then—including Julio. What's more, the man he used to call his teammate is now his manager, and the Indians are winners.

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by Bill Needle Julian Tavarez is the perfect example of a revolutionary new way of preparing young minor league prospects for life in the "bigs." What began as a lesson in English has grown into a whole new way of development for many young players.

- 64 **A Mascot For All Seasons**  
by Tom Bochenek Slider is becoming more and more "the man about town," and it's not just because of his purple pallor and his marvelous moves—he is becoming somewhat of an icon in Cleveland.

- 87 **Edith Would've Been Proud**  
During this bicentennial season, we take a look back to the game's roots in our wonderful city, and baseball's first Cleveland "ball parks" before the turn of the century.

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# Indians

## HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

Team	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.
1st Baseman	3	=	Doubled; did not advance further.
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.
Designated Hitter	DH	K	Struck out—end of the inning.
Leftfielder	7	4-6	Singled; later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).
Catcher	2	DP 4-6-3	Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).
3rd Baseman	5	≡	Hit home run.
Shortstop	6	7	Flied out to leftfielder—end of inning.
Pitcher	I		
TOTALS	R H	I I	I 2

## USE THESE SYMBOLS FOR PLAYS

- Single
- = Double
- ≡ Triple
- ☰ Home Run
- E Error
- F Foul Fly
- DP Double Play

- FC Fielder's Choice
- HP Hit by Pitcher
- WP Wild Pitch
- SB Stolen Base
- SH Sacrifice Hit
- SF Sacrifice Fly
- CS Caught Stealing

- PB Passed Ball
- BK Balk
- K Struck Out
- BB Base on Balls
- FO Forced Out
- IW Intentional Walk

## CAN YOU SCORE

### THIS PLAY?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

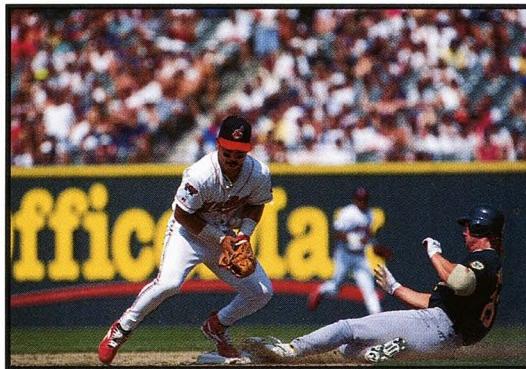
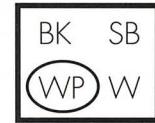


Photo credit: Gregory Drezdzon



In this example, the hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on pitcher's balk, scored on a wild pitch.

### **ALBERT BELLE — Home Run #50**

- Albert slammed his 50th home run of the season off Kansas City pitcher, Melvin Bunch, in the 6th inning of the Indians game vs. the Royals on September 30th... Albert's famous 50th was a solo shot that came on a 2-2 count... Belle's homer tied the game at two apiece and allowed the Indians to stage another last at-bat victory on Carlos Baerga's RBI single in the bottom of the 10th.
- With his historic blast, Albert became the 12th player in history (19th time) to hit 50 or more HR in a single season and the first player to accomplish the feat since Cecil Fielder hit 51 homers in 1991. In addition, Albert was only the 3rd player to hit 50 or more HR in a single season since divisional play began (George Foster hit 52 in 1977 with the Cincinnati Reds).
- Albert's 50th homer of the season was also his 17th homer in the month of September, tying Babe Ruth's Major League record for most homers in September... The Babe hit 17 September homers in 1927... The 17 home runs was also a Cleveland Indians record for most HR in a single month.
- In 1995, Albert became the first Indians player to lead the Major Leagues in home runs for a single season... Albert was the first Tribe batter to lead the league in homers since Rocky Colavito tied Harmon Killebrew for the AL lead in 1959... Albert is the first Indians batter to win the home run title outright since 1954 when Larry Doby led the American League with 32.



*Albert Belle*



Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdson, all photos

## A Mascot For All Seasons

**Slider is as  
much a part  
of Tribe  
baseball as  
an Albert  
Belle home  
run. Lately  
he's making  
an impact  
on the city  
as well.**

by Tom Bochenek

Remember when you were five years old? Did you do any of the following:

- Slingshot hot dogs instead of going to kindergarten?
- Drive a motor scooter at top speeds rather than learn how to ride a bike?
- Dance with a stomach the size of a huge beach ball?
- Go to every Indians home game? Well, if you say no to all the above questions, don't feel alone. Only one person (is he or she a human being? — No one will say) can say yes to those unique questions, SLIDER.

The Indians five-year-old mascot is as much a part of a Tribe home game as an Albert Belle home run. Yes, SLIDER does all of the above and much more in the game-by-game activity of giving fans a good time at Jacobs Field.

"Obviously, people want SLIDER because I represent the Indians," said the mascot, who does not speak, but communicates through hand gestures, or by writing down his thoughts. "And, it's good family entertainment."

Since being hatched into the baseball world on July 29, 1990 in a giant crate that was said to have been shipped from a magical place called the Fuchsia Islands, SLIDER has paraded around Cleveland Stadium and Jacobs Field, covering more ground than Omar Vizquel at shortstop.

Here comes SLIDER zooming out of the left field wall on a scooter, sort of a grand entrance to every game; Hey, there's SLIDER in KidsLand, entertaining the youngsters; it's the seventh inning stretch, watch out Indians dugout because SLIDER is about to go into a dance routine with the SLIDER Guider Girls atop the dugout; check out

the upper deck, the concourses, the bleachers, the Back Yard in center field—SLIDER is everywhere!

"Yeah, I've always been a big ham," claimed SLIDER. "I've wanted exposure and I love to make people laugh. My main objective has been to make this character as popular as can be."

How popular? Like *The Chicken*, who routinely brings the human element out of umpires, and the *Philly Phanatic*, whose protruding belly and long-nosed beak enable him to ham it up with players and managers, SLIDER has put his signature on a skit that he/she first brought to the game at The Stadium.

The slinging of hot dogs, a.k.a. Wingin' Wieners.

"People love Wingin' Wieners," remarked SLIDER, who does the routine between innings. The SLIDER Guiders hold the sling shot and SLIDER fires wrapped hot dogs into the stands.

"You can't slingshot baseballs, but what would be funny to wing at a baseball game? Hot dogs, of course!" SLIDER explained, while discussing how the hot dog became the object of choice for a new airborne object.

"One of my best shots was caught one-handed by Joe Morgan of ESPN. I also launched one to (Indians owner) Mr. (Dick) Jacobs in his suite. It was funny because the hot dogs are cooked, but I usually do it after five (innings) and they get cold."

"I remember at our holiday party in 1993, Mr. Jacobs said, 'so, are you going to wing hot dogs at the new ballpark? Well, can you get them to me a little hotter?' I nodded, 'yeah, sure.'"

How popular is SLIDER? Try this list of guest appearances the 'big ham' makes for



Photo Credit Gregory Drezdzon

the Indians. Schools, hospitals, shopping malls, private birthday parties, bachelor and bachelorette parties, weddings, etc., etc.

"Every year, the demand for appearances goes up... and it will continue," boasts SLIDER. "I've done appearances where they've gotten a thousand kids out of class, just to see SLIDER. I'll do some dancing, and I'll spoof on some of the teachers and when the kids go nuts, I

know I've messed with the right teacher."

One of SLIDER's most memorable appearances was a surprise birthday party that took place last winter at a business in Garfield Heights.

"It was for a 40-year-old lady who became a Tribe fan just last year," SLIDER recalled, "and, she just loves SLIDER. Here's someone who has never been interested in baseball, who jumped on the bandwagon and now loves the team and SLIDER."

"Her office workers thought it would be great to get SLIDER to make a special visit to her birthday party. They blindfolded her and sat her down on a chair. I plopped

The list goes  
on and on:  
hospitals,  
churches,  
schools,  
shopping  
malls,  
birthday  
parties—  
even  
weddings!



**Slider  
gained  
national  
attention  
and the  
concern of  
many when  
he was  
injured  
during the  
'95 ALCS.**

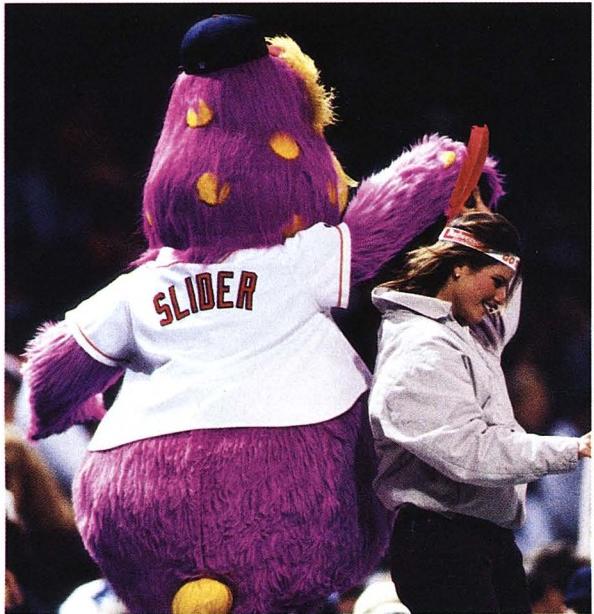


Photo Credit Gregory Drezdzon

"The game was going slow, but finally, it's the bottom of the fifth and the Indians were up. Someone got a hit before Carlos (Baerga) came up to bat and I spontaneously jumped up onto the right field wall.

"I did a little dance and then knelt down to do a somersault. I put my head on the right field wall and lost all sense of direction.

"Instead of rolling forward, I did a flop to the left. My feet went over (the wall) first, and momentum took the rest of me over the wall.

"I saw the warning track and—BOOM—I just hit it. I was fortunate, though, to land feet first. My right leg was fully extended when I landed.



Photo Credit Gregory Drezdzon

"For a minute, I forgot where I was. I thought I was dead. I was so disoriented, I forgot where I fell from.

"As I was lying there in a daze, I heard the crowd roar—Carlos got a hit. Luckily, it was in left field. I looked to my left, and then to my right, trying to figure out which bullpen I was closest to. I wasn't even sure if I could get up. A lot of questions were racing through my head: 'Am I going to delay the game? Am I going to be able to get up? Is an ambulance going to have to come out? Am I going to have to be carried off the field?'

"I stood up, and tried to put weight on my right leg... it felt like a noodle. It was scary. But, I braved it, and people thought it was pretty neat that I stayed in costume—there was no way I was going to show my identity.

"The girls were wondering where I was—they were looking up to the wall and I wasn't there. Even the guys in the bullpen were looking at me like, 'what's he doing out there?' They finally opened the door, and I went into the (bullpen) and laid down. I was really hurtin'. Everyone was laughing, and then security came out with a few maintenance guys. Julian Tavarez and Jose Mesa came over to me concerned.

"Julian said, 'where does it hurt, where does it hurt?' He was cracking me up speaking in broken English.

"I came very close to dislocating my knee."

Of the four major ligaments, two were completely torn and two were partially torn. In medical terms, the medial collateral (MCL) and anterior cruciate (ACL) ligaments were totally torn, and the posterior cruciate (PCL) and lateral collateral (LCL) were partially torn.

The doctors gave the injury time to heal before performing major reconstructive surgery on the ACL on December 11. Throughout the winter, SLIDER went through rehabilitation three times a week with the intention of being ready for Opening Day on April 1, and he continued to make appearances during the off-season with the



Photo Credit Gregory Drezdzon

aid of a knee brace.

The overwhelming reaction regarding SLIDER's injury by the media and fans, especially the youngsters, continued throughout the winter.

"Incredible," SLIDER said of the response. "I fell on Saturday night, and the next day, the phones were ringing off the hook. A lot of calls were from parents asking if SLIDER was alright so they could

reassure their kids. Our office recorded nearly 1,500 calls. We take pride in our mascot program—everyone who sent get-well wishes received a personal reply.

"It was unbelievable, the support, it was touching. I was very motivated, which helped me get through it. I suited up for the World Series—I wasn't going to miss that moment."

Suiting up means a 15-minute ordeal of putting on a five-piece outfit that weighs

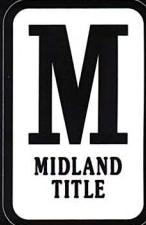
40 pounds. Consider a scorching July afternoon game and SLIDER endured temperatures of 140 degrees.

"I've never passed out, but I've come close. It's a God-given talent," SLIDER said. "I perform at a high energy level, too, and that's what it takes to have the endurance. I used to run six miles every day."

Assisting SLIDER in his travels around the Ballpark are the SLIDER Guiders. "People will point and say, 'she's a SLIDER Guider.' I'm booking appearances and people ask, 'do the girls come too?'"

SLIDER is heavily booked, in large part, because, like Santa Claus, the Indians mascot is a lovable mystery. SLIDER is a kid at heart who dearly loves the youngsters who come to Jacobs Field. SLIDER is one of the reasons there is a KidsLand down the right field line, and why there is more than a ballgame at Jacobs Field.

SLIDER is planning a huge comeback from his injury for the 1996 season. Baseball's slogan a year ago said it best: Welcome To The Show.



## WE HELPED MAKE THE INDIANS "FIELD OF DREAMS" COME TRUE . . . .

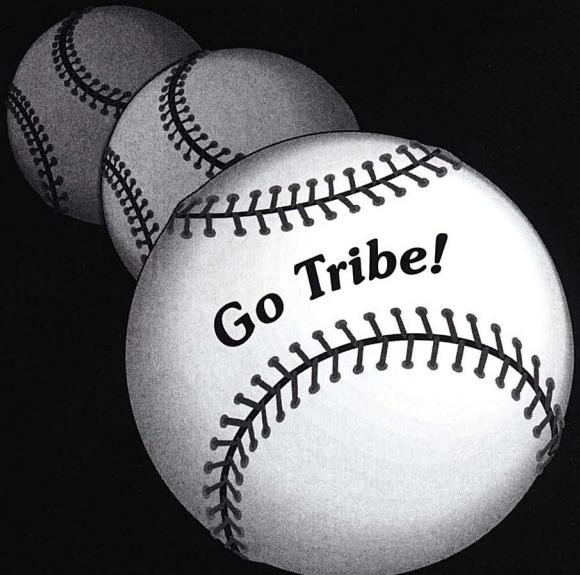
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## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND THE INDIANS MAKE "TEAM" A WINNER

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, will make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message:

### PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

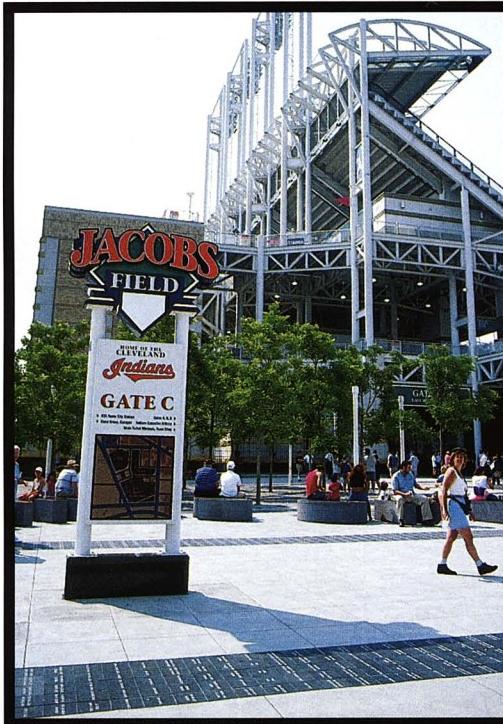
Major League Baseball joined TEAM in 1987. Fourteen organizations are now members of the coalition, representing professional sports, federal and state agencies, and private industry. In addition to Major League Baseball, Allstate Insurance Company, CBS Sports, Comsat Video Enterprises, the International Association of Auditorium Managers, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Association of Governor's Highway Safety Representatives, the National Basketball Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Traffic Safety Administration, the National Hockey League, and the National Safety Council are members.

TEAM was established to accomplish two objectives:

- Assist ballparks and arenas in the development of alcohol management policies and procedures.
- Conduct public service campaigns that reinforce awareness of the dangers associated with drinking and driving.

These campaigns promote the value of a designated driver and the importance of responsible drinking.

Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdow, 1995



As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club has reviewed its alcohol policies. Every club is running public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warning them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The results have been encouraging. The number of alcohol-related incidents in and around baseball parks has dropped.

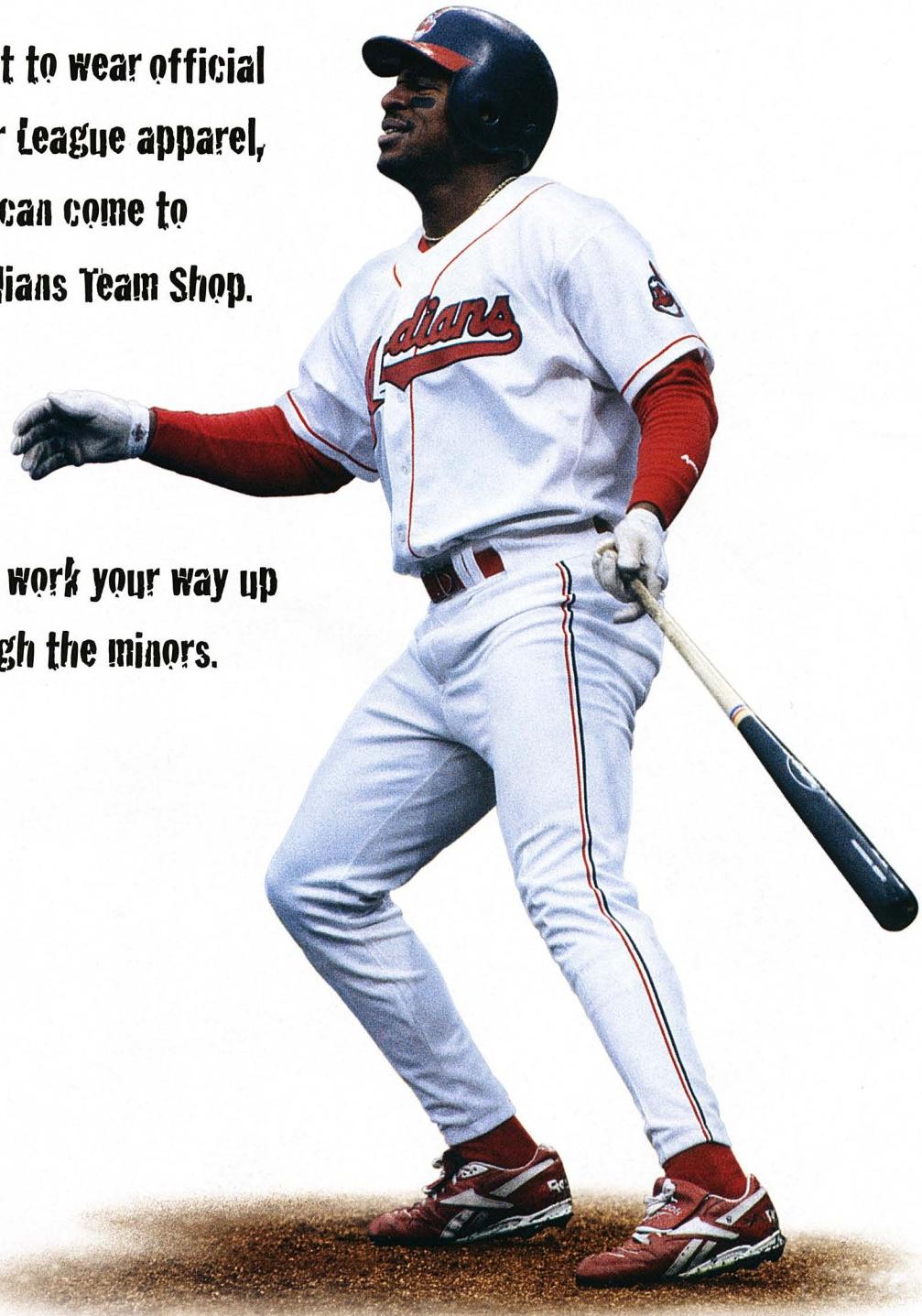
Baseball's efforts also include a multi-media public service announcement campaign that promoted "TEAM Spirit" on television during network telecasts of regular and post-season games. TEAM PSA's over the years have featured Tommy Lasorda, Mark Langston, Shane Rawley, Chili Davis, and Don Baylor encouraging fans not to drink and drive.

The Indians have also been a leader when it comes to safe, responsible drinking at Jacobs Field. All hosts, guest service personnel, security guards, ticket sellers, and parking lot attendants are trained in spotting the signs of intoxication among fans and how to control and prevent alcohol-related incidents. In addition, there are banners behind concession stands encouraging fans to drink responsibly and to choose a designated driver in their group. Those interested in participating in the Designated Driver program, **sponsored by A1 General**, may sign up at Guest Service Centers, Section 116 of the Main Concourse or Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, to receive a free soft drink certificate, a wristband saying they aren't purchasing alcohol, and a chance to win an Indians baseball cap from the Team Shop.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.



If you want to wear official  
Major League apparel,  
you can come to  
the Indians Team Shop.



All-Star slugger Albert Belle spent 2½ years in the Tribe farm system before he put on an Indians uniform. But you just have to spend a few minutes at the Indians Team Shops. Because here, you can get official Tribe jerseys, and caps just like the players wear. You can also get t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, baseballs, pennants, flags, videos, children's items and novelties too. So stock up for the new season while the selection is good. Visit the Indians Team Shop at Jacobs Field, the Galleria at Erieview or Belden Village Mall in Canton. To order by phone, call 216-420-GIFT or 1-800-38-TRIBE.

And we'll have you looking like a real pro.

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



Jacobs Field 420-4444 Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun. Noon - 5 p.m.  
Galleria 420-4443 Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun. Noon - 5 p.m.  
Belden Village 497-8088 Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## **THE PLAYERS**



## **BOTTOM OF THE NINTH**

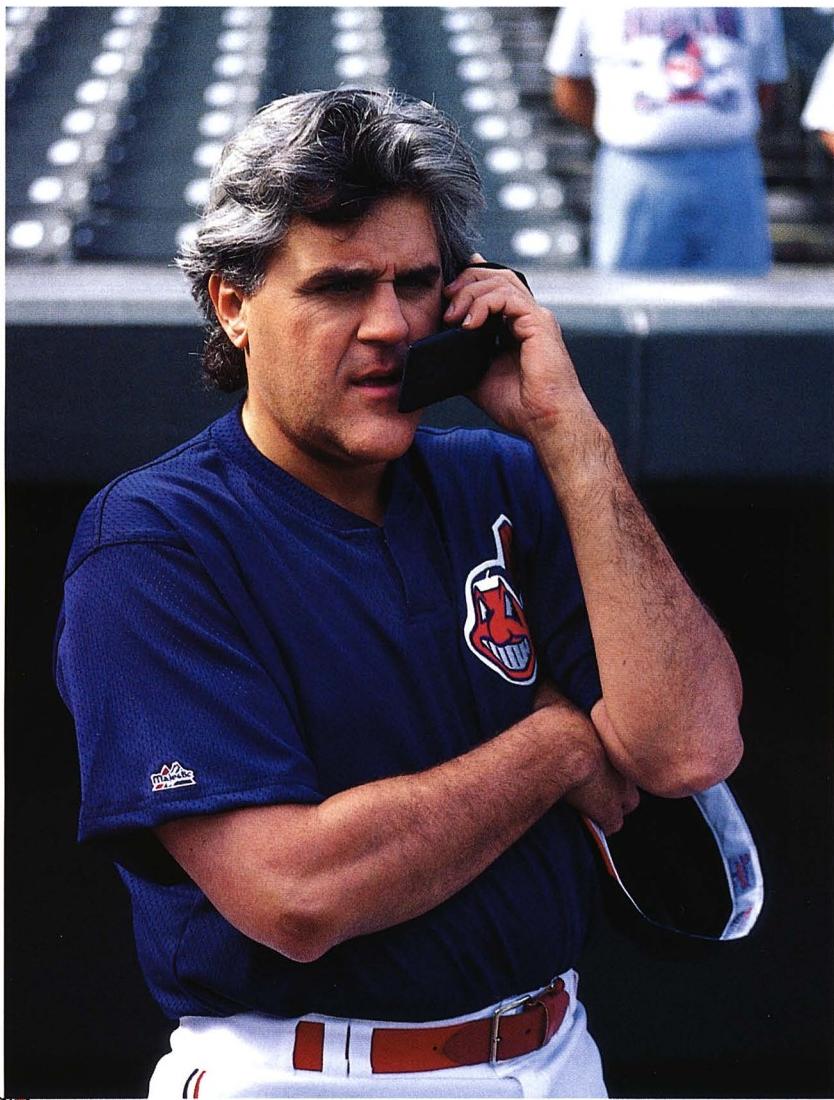


Photo Credit: Gregory Drezdzon, 1995

**"...It's gonna take a lot more  
than that to get me back!"**

